

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(114) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Parliamentary Secretary announced in a media release of 25 September 2009 reforms to the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy. How will these changes impact on the overall cost of administering the program?

*Answer:*

The Department is seeking to achieve improvements to the IHSS program without increasing its costs. This was stated in the IHSS discussion paper released in June 2009.

It is anticipated that costs associated with the changes announced by the Parliamentary Secretary in September 2009 will be offset by realigning some services and simplifying administrative processes, such as reporting and invoicing.

Cost modelling will be undertaken on the new service model prior to approaching the market with a tender for initial settlement services in early 2010.